



Wyoming Drought Information



Powder River near Arvada—July 2002
(Photo courtesy of D. Peterson , [USGS](#))

February 17, 2007

...Severe to extreme hydrologic drought continues across most of Wyoming...

...Wyoming is well into the 7th consecutive year of moderate or greater hydrologic drought...

.Synopsis...

Almost all of Wyoming continues to be under a severe to extreme hydrological drought.

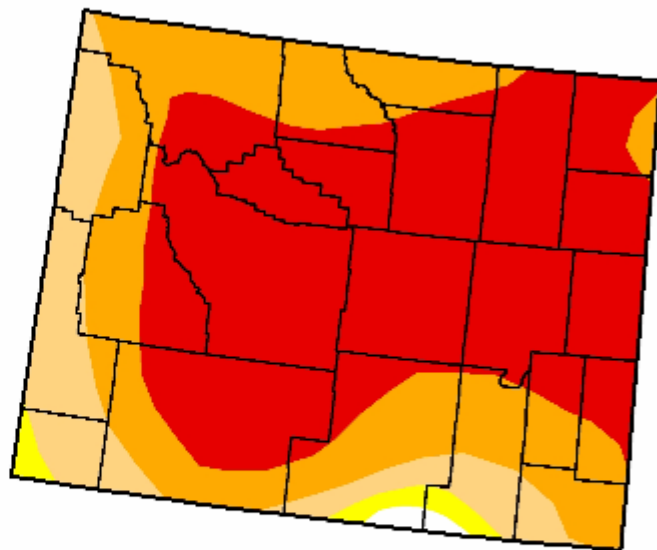
U.S. Drought Monitor **Wyoming**

February 13, 2007
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.6	99.4	97.6	84.9	56.1	0.0
Last Week (02/06/2007 map)	0.0	100.0	98.7	84.9	56.1	0.0
3 Months Ago (11/21/2006 map)	0.3	99.7	90.8	69.0	50.1	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/02/2007 map)	1.6	98.4	92.1	71.5	40.9	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/03/2006 map)	0.3	99.7	97.2	69.0	50.0	0.0
One Year Ago (02/14/2006 map)	18.2	81.8	43.9	0.0	0.0	0.0

Intensity:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  D0 Abnormally Dry |  D3 Drought - Extreme |
|  D1 Drought - Moderate |  D4 Drought - Exceptional |
|  D2 Drought - Severe | |



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements*

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



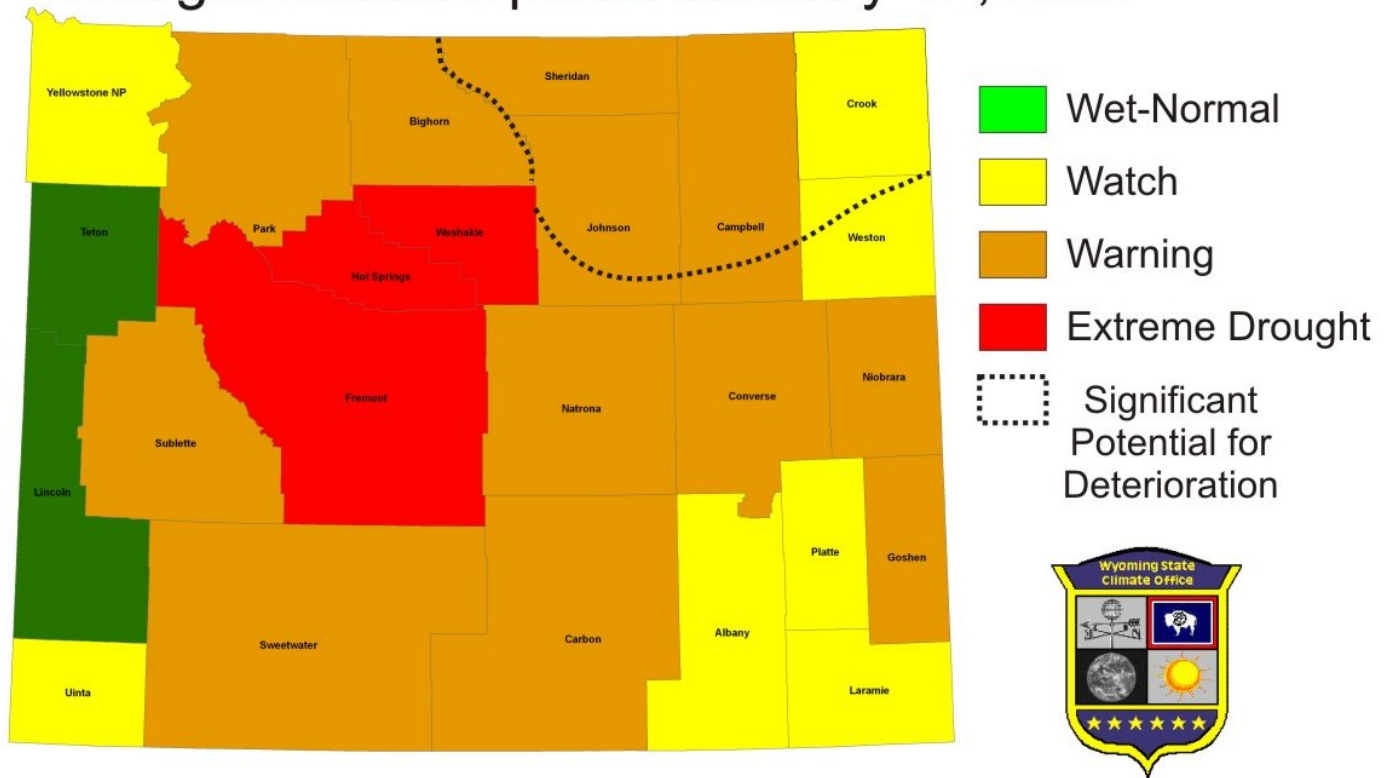
Released Thursday, February 15, 2007

Author: Richard Tinker, Climate Prediction Center/NOAA

The Wind River Basin has been hit the hardest with the current hydrological drought. The Riverton area received only 43% of normal precipitation for the calendar year 2006. Precipitation total in the Lander area for calendar year 2006 equaled only 55% of normal.

>>Drought Status Update (from the State Climatologist's Office):

Drought Status Update January 12, 2007



Please see <http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/wsc/dtf/drought.html> for additional information

.Local area affected...

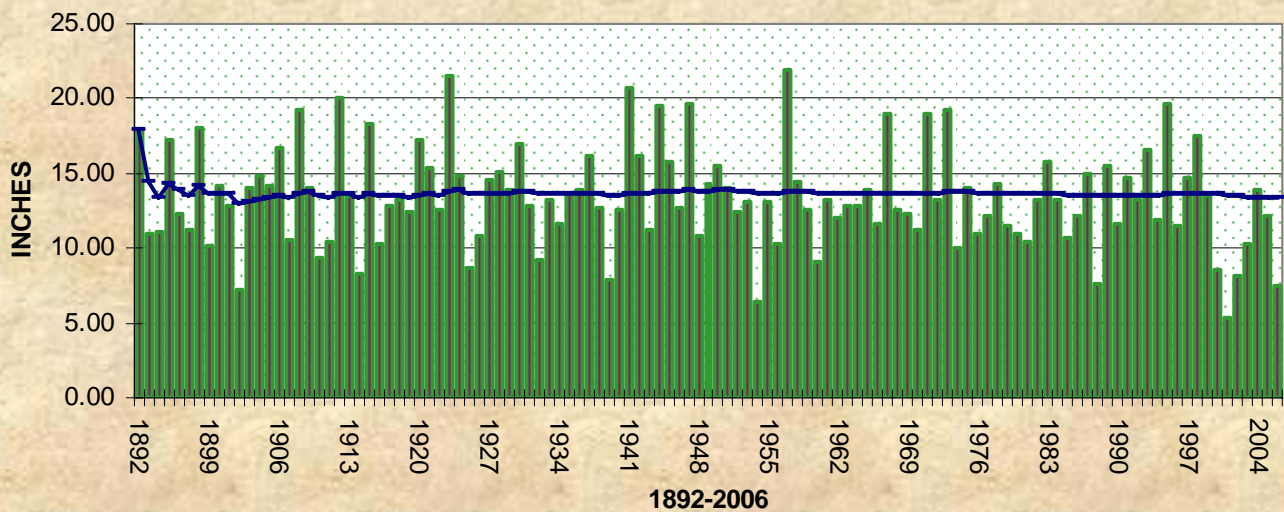
All major river basins and counties in Wyoming are affected.

.Climate Summary...

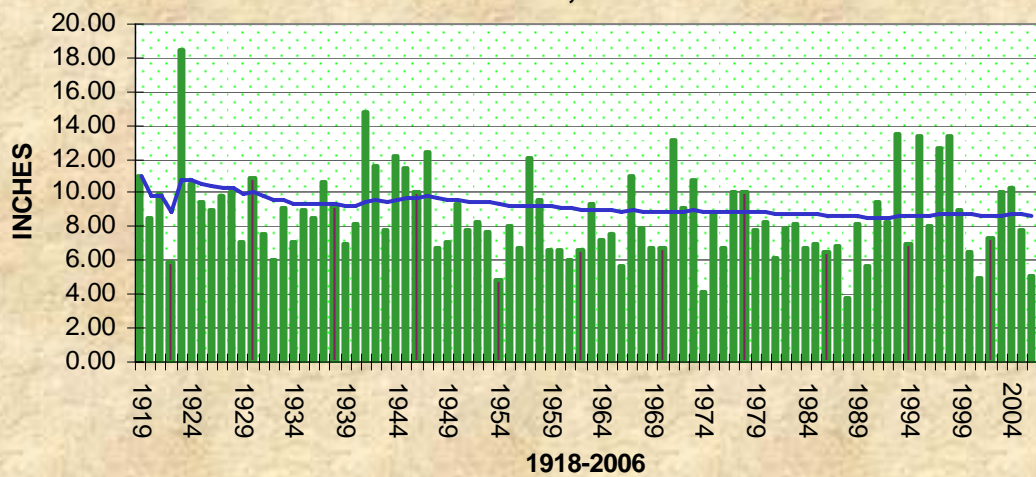
>>Long Range Precipitation Trends...

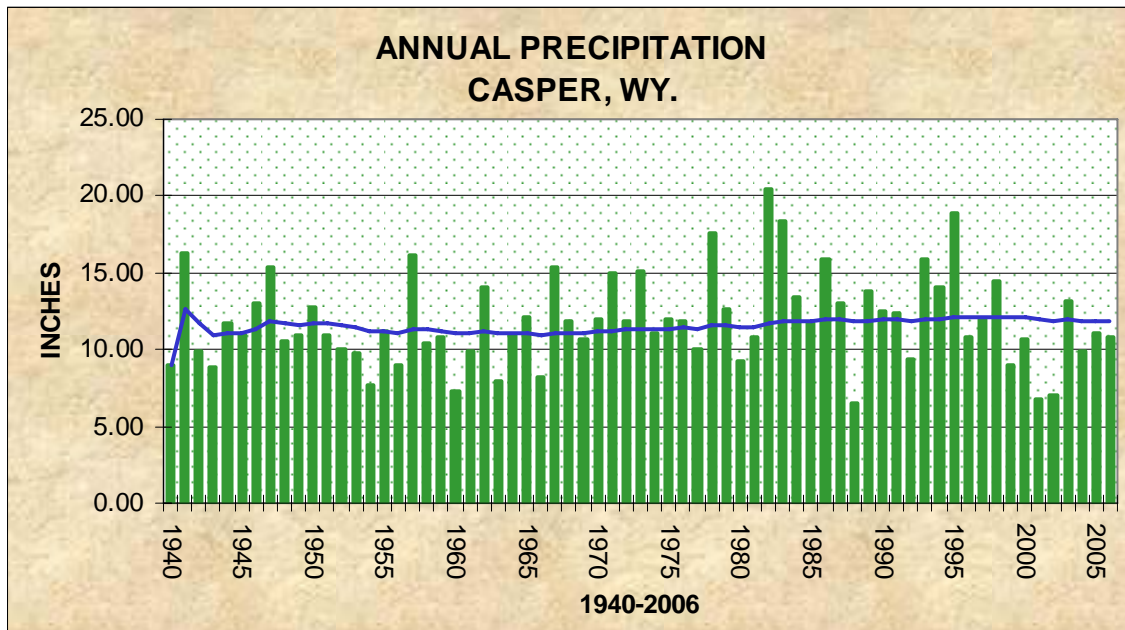
Lander's precipitation records go back to 1892—Riverton's precipitation records go back to 1919—and Casper's precipitation records go back to 1940.

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION AT HUNT FIELD LANDER, WY.



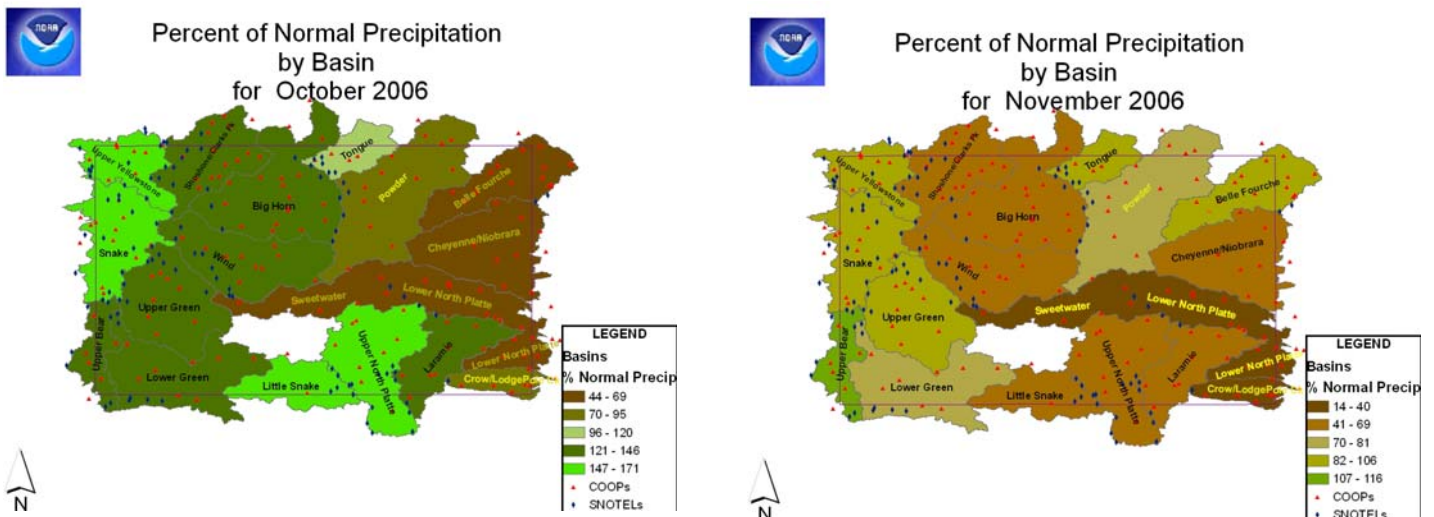
ANNUAL PRECIPITATION RIVERTON, WY.





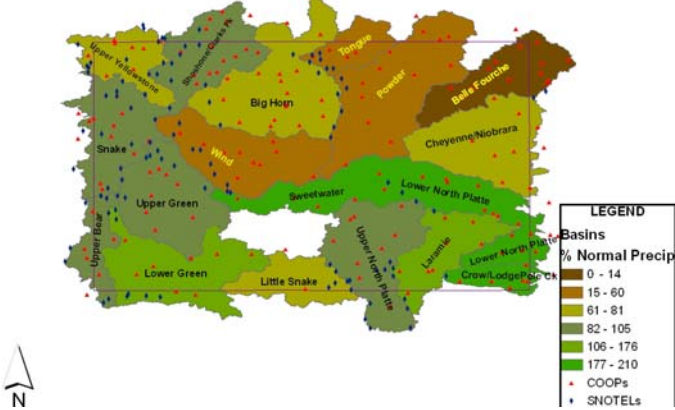
>>Current Precipitation Trends...(LAST 4 MONTHS)

Water Year 2007—Precipitation across major basins across Wyoming was generally near to just above average in October. November precipitation totals yielded below to well below average. Major basins across southeast Wyoming had above normal water equivalents during December; while the rest of the major drainages in Wyoming had below average to well below average water equivalent totals. A majority of Wyoming's major watersheds recorded well below average precipitation in January 2007.

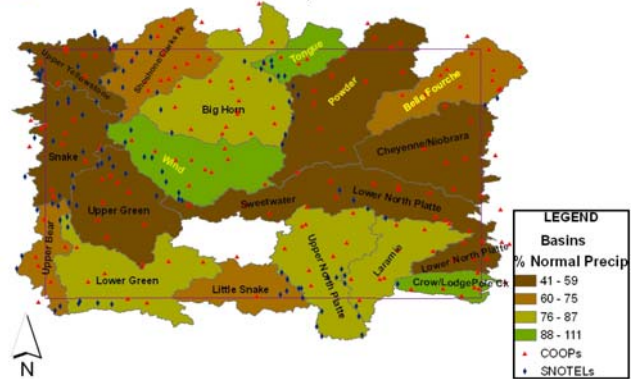




Percent of Normal Precipitation
by Basin
for December 2006



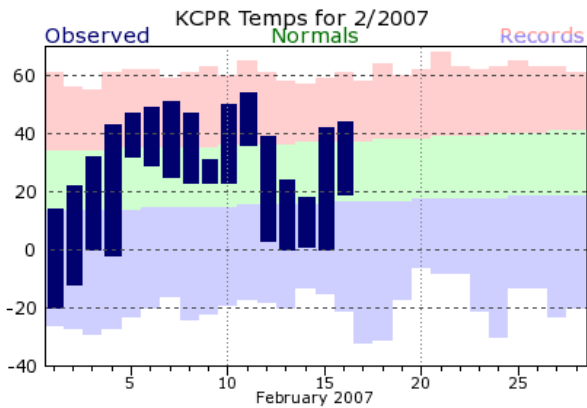
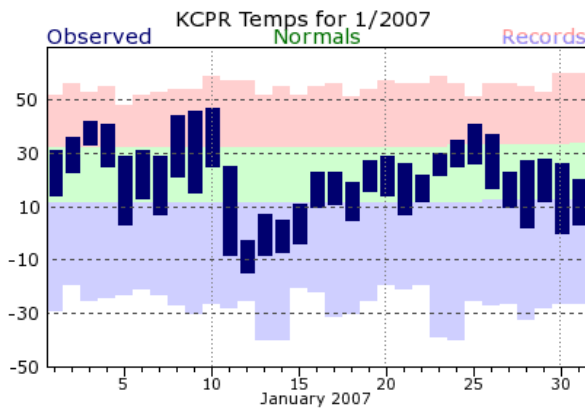
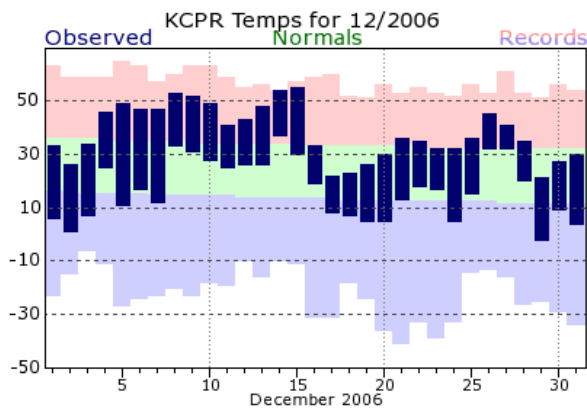
Percent of Normal Precipitation
by Basin
for January 2007



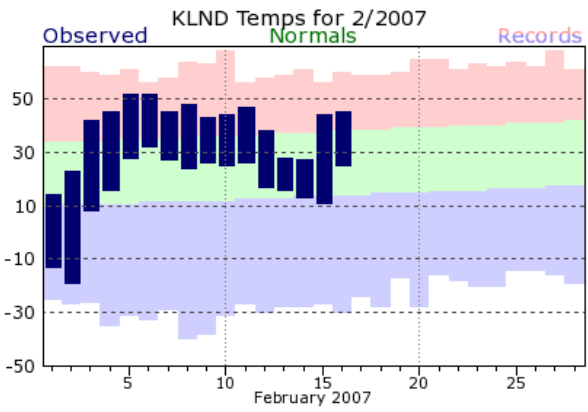
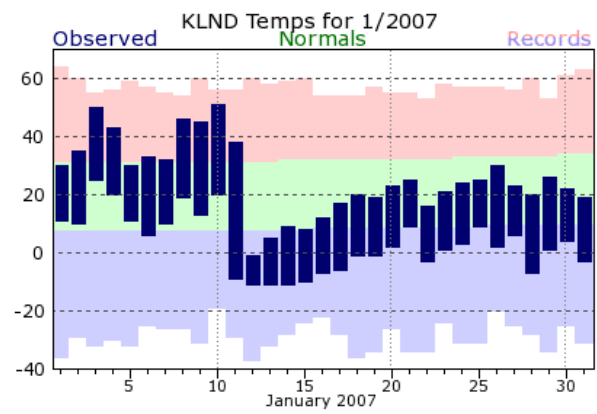
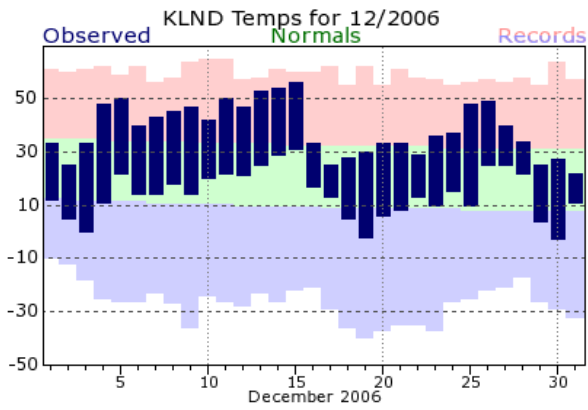
>>Temperature Trends...(Last 3 Months)

A warmer than normal December through early January—slightly colder than normal from mid-January to early February.

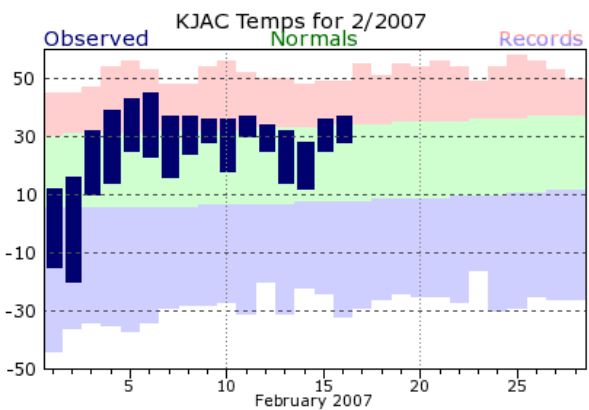
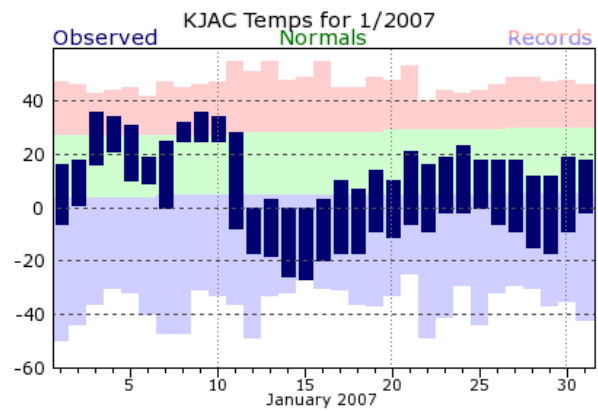
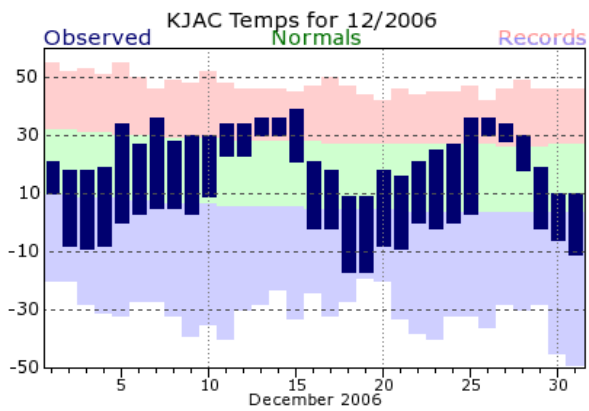
Casper



Lander

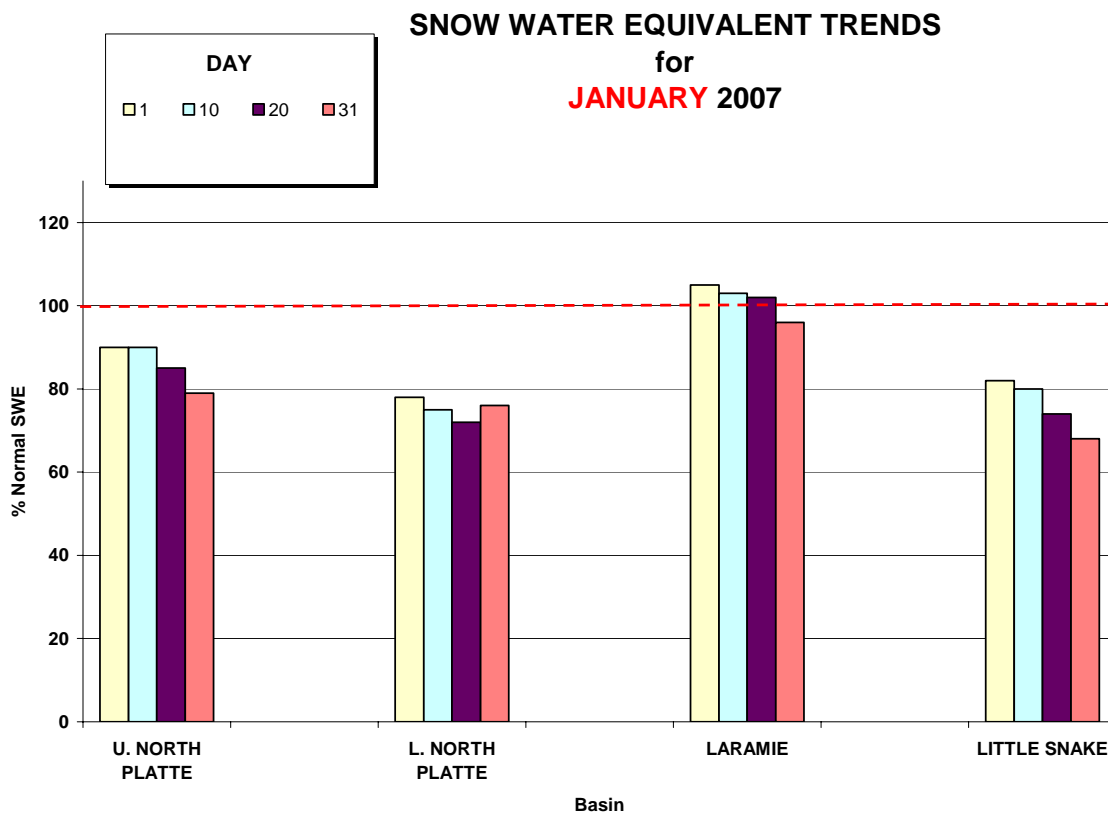
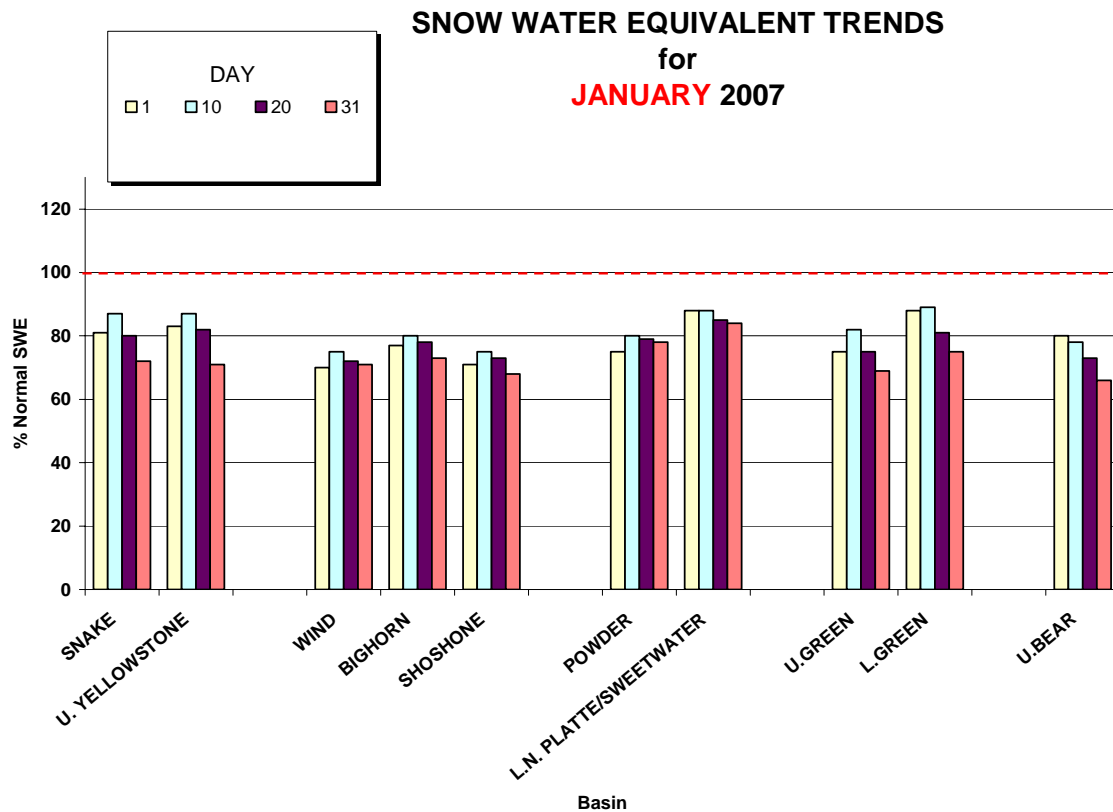


Jackson



>>Snow pack trends...

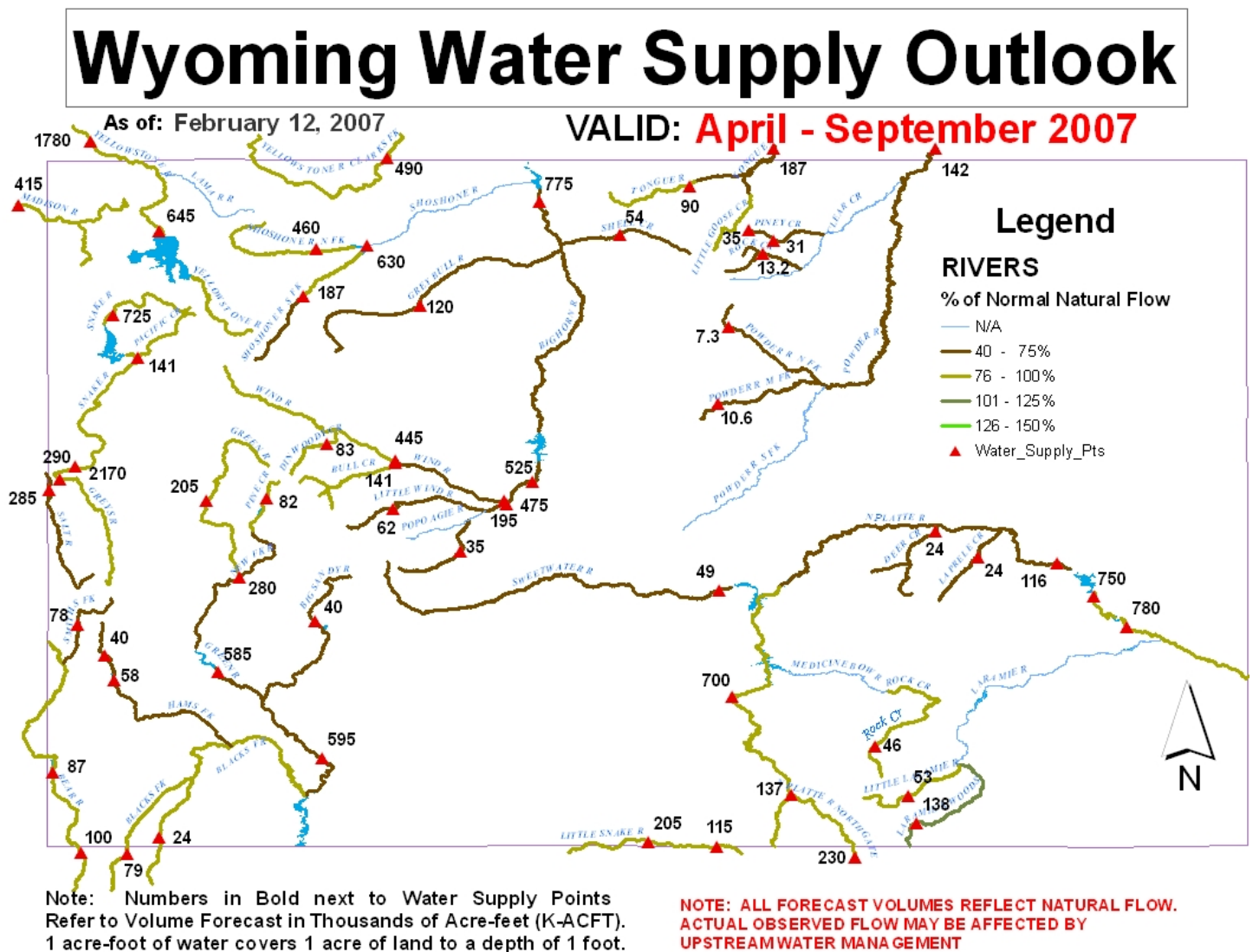
Snow water equivalents (SWEs) in the mountain snowpack across Wyoming remained to 70 to 85 percent of average by the end of January. The only exception was across the Laramie Watershed—where SWEs remained to near 100% of normal at the end of January.



.River and Streamflow Conditions...

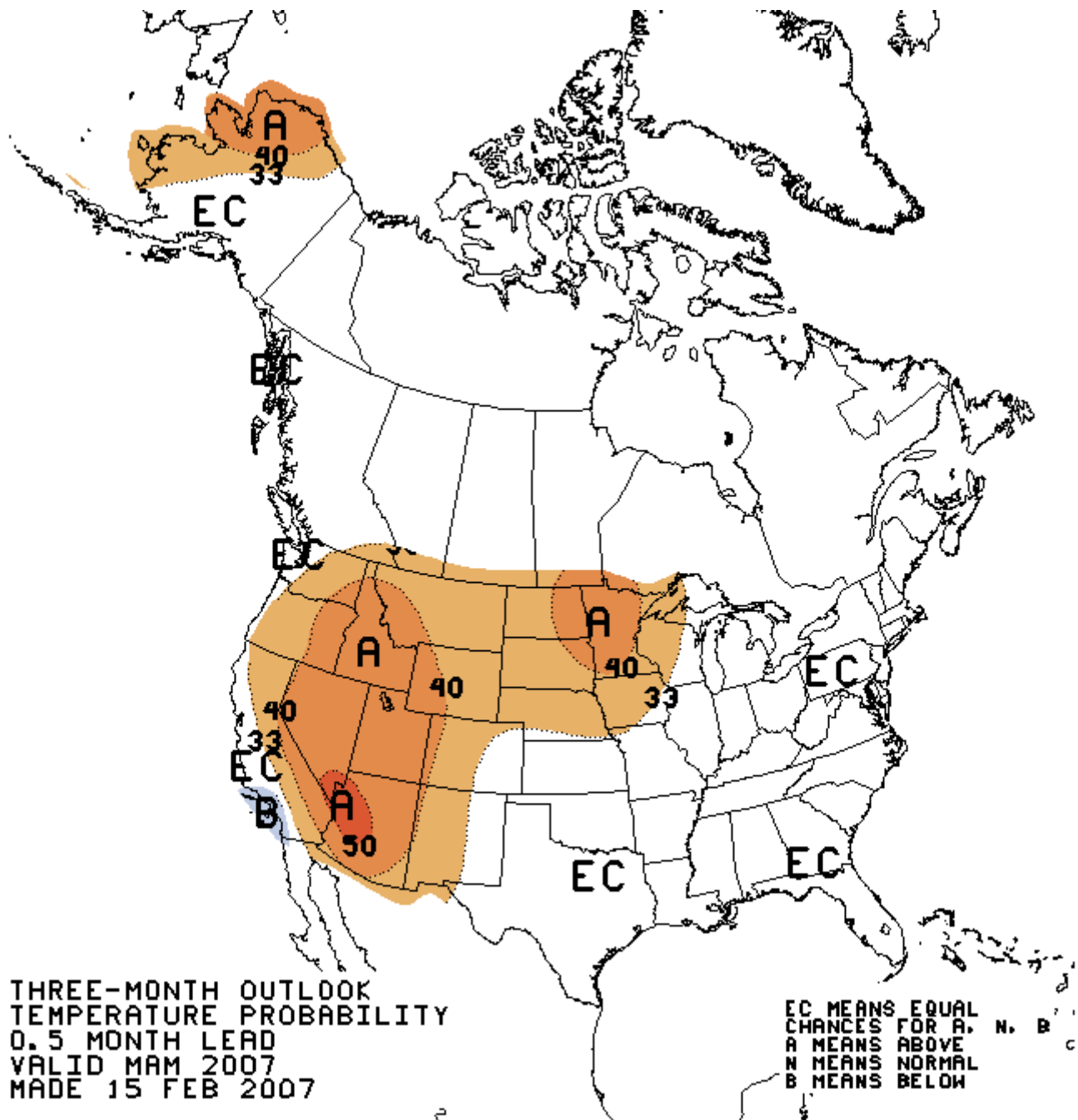
Many rivers across Wyoming are frozen at this time. Trends in streamflow percentiles are usually unrepresentative during the winter months. Reasonable streamflow conclusions and/or trends about streamflow conditions can be again made after the spring thaw.

Below normal to well below normal snowmelt streamflow volumes are expected for the majority of the watersheds in Wyoming.

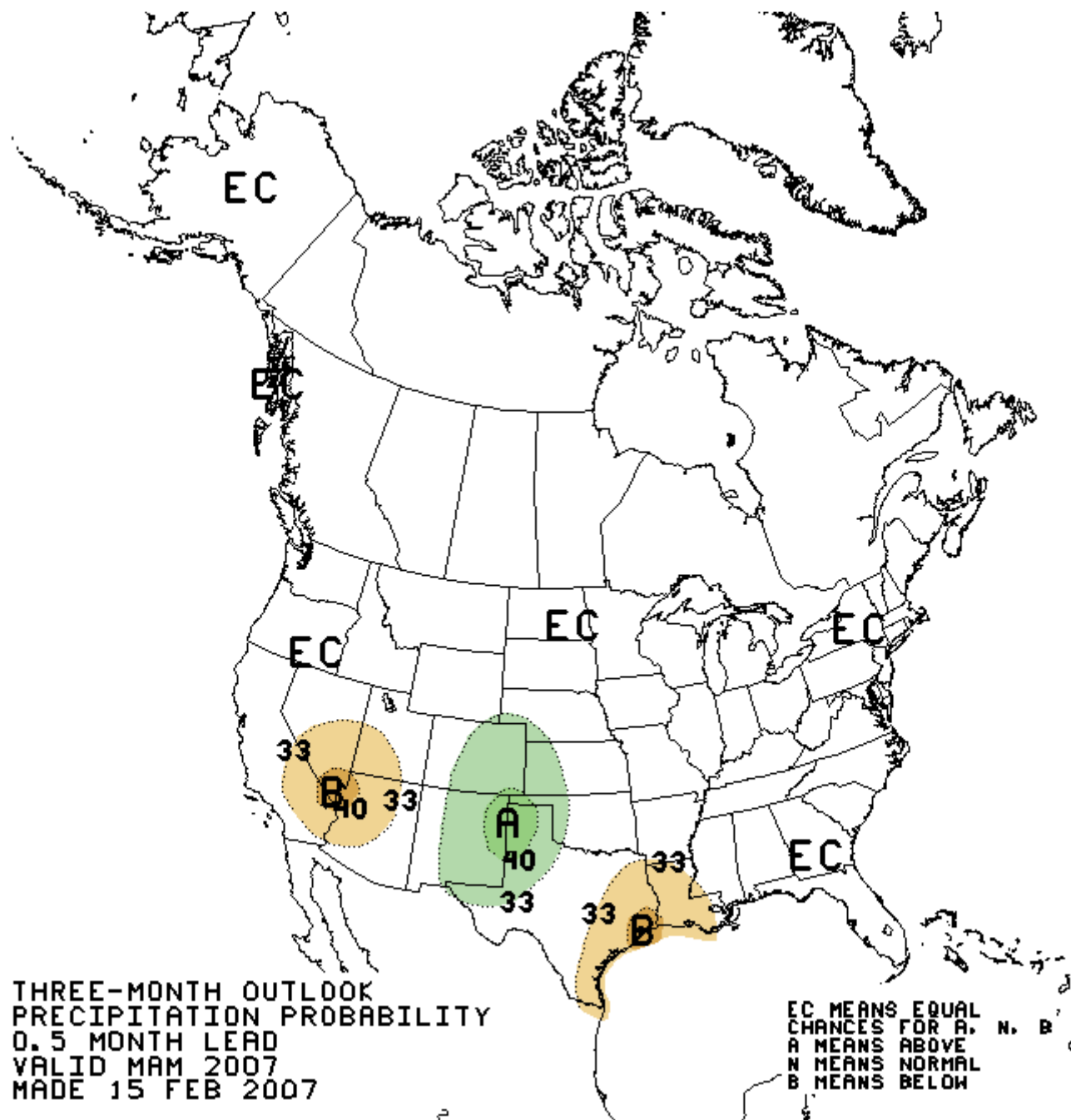


.Precipitation/Temperature Outlook...

The 90-day outlook indicates that there is a 30 to 40 percent chance for warmer than normal temperatures for Wyoming.



Wyoming can expect to have an equal chance (50% either side) of a wetter or drier than normal 3-month period.



.Questions or comments...

If you have any questions or comments about this drought information, please contact:

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.Related web sites...

Wyoming Drought Site...

www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/wsc/df

USGS Wyoming Drought Watch...

www.wy.water.usgs.gov/projects/drought

U.S. Drought Monitor...

www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

NOAA Drought Page...

www.drought.noaa.gov

Western Regional Climate Center...

www.wrcc.dri.edu

NOAA/NWS Climate Page...

www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=riw

Wyoming River Information...

NWS - www.crh.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=riw/(or cys/unr)
<http://ahps2.wr.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=slc>/(or byz)

USGS - www.waterdata.usgs.gov/wy/nwis/rt

NRCS Snow Survey/Snowpack Information...

www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs

Climate Prediction Center...

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

.Acknowledgements...

This Drought Informational Statement is a multi-agency effort involving NOAA's National Weather Service and the National Climatic Center, the NRCS, Wyoming State Climatologist's Office, regional center climatologists, and the National Drought Mitigation Center. Information for this statement has been gathered from the NWS and FAA observation sites...state cooperative services...the NRCS...and the USGS.

.Next issuance...

This product will be updated the **20th of March**

A more detailed informational statement with additional graphics will be issued in April in conjunction with the start of the irrigation season.